

Illustrating Birds of Grant Kohrs Ranch NHS

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Grades: 9-12

Subject(s): Science, Art, and Language

Duration:

- (All) One day for interdisciplinary class introduction
- Science: one day for field study work, two days in the class room
- Language: one day for language class
- Art: One day field study, two days in the classroom

Description: Educate students in field identification, field illustration, and sharing gathered information with younger children.

Goals: To combine science, art and language to illustrate and describe the diverse bird population of Grant Kohrs.

*** Teacher Instruction:**

1. Prepare students by previewing all types of birds they might find while birding the Grant Kohrs Ranch.
2. Contact Grant Kohrs Ranch to set up a guided birding tour.
3. Teachers instruct your students on proper park etiquette
4. Contact your area birding expert. (If birding at Grant Kohrs, Gary Swant would be a valuable contact)
5. Check on transportation availability
6. Check on the availability of display site for the finished illustrations

Objectives:

1. Have students learn proper birding field techniques (see attached)
2. Have students learn common birds found at the Grant Kohrs Ranch
3. Have students understand the different habitat ranges found at the Grant Kohrs Ranch
4. Have students understand the different aspects of scientific illustration

Materials: (field)

1. Binoculars
2. Birding field guide
3. Field data collection sheet
4. Clip boards and pencil
5. Weather related clothing
6. Digital cameras for art students

Materials: (classroom)

1. Pencils, colored pencils, and erasers
2. Computer with Internet connection
2. Sketch pads
3. Illustration board
4. View illustrations by Roger Tory Peterson, John J Audubon, and David Allen Sibley

<http://www.sibleyguides.com/>
[Http://www.audubon.org/nas/jja.html](http://www.audubon.org/nas/jja.html)
[Http://www.galleryone.com/peterson_prints.html](http://www.galleryone.com/peterson_prints.html)
[Http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0838607.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0838607.html)

Procedure:

The following lesson plan combines the studies of Science, Art and Language in the development of a scientific illustration process.

Art, Science, and Language classes

1. Combine classes for explanation of interdisciplinary project.

Field Work Activities

1. Research various Montana birding websites

[Http://www.gobirdmontana.com](http://www.gobirdmontana.com)
[Http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/MOB-Montana](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/MOB-Montana)
[Http://www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org)
[Http://www.nhp.nris.mt.gov/animal/searchbird_latilong.asp](http://www.nhp.nris.mt.gov/animal/searchbird_latilong.asp)
[Http://www.nhp.nris.mt.gov/mbd/](http://www.nhp.nris.mt.gov/mbd/)
[Http://www.nhp.nris.mt.gov/NHIP/](http://www.nhp.nris.mt.gov/NHIP/)
[Http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html)
[Http://www.thayerbirding.com](http://www.thayerbirding.com)
[Http://www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu)
[Http://www.thayerbirding.com/favorites.htm](http://www.thayerbirding.com/favorites.htm)

2. Discuss Montana birds found on various website
3. Review proper field birding techniques (see attached)
4. Field trip to Grant Kohrs Ranch
5. Document and sketch found birds

Interdisciplinary Classroom

1. Combine information gathered in the field
2. Discuss each group responsibility for birding project
3. Break into groups

Art

1. Draw and illustrate each found bird, focusing on detail

Science

1. Review and label each birds anatomy

Language

1. Research and write a brief description on each bird found

Art

1. Organize and display illustrations and information found on each resident bird

Assessment:

Students should be assessed for individual and team achievement in the following areas:

1. Student's ability to list found birds and characteristics and the steps in research design.
2. Assess teamwork and participation through individual and group discussion.
3. Proper easy readability and grammatical correctness.
4. Assess final illustrations in the use of media, effort and final composition.

Montana Content Standards:

Science Content Standards: 1,3,&5

Art Content Standards: 1,2,3,4, &6

Language Content Standards: 1,2,4,5, & 6

Field Birding Techniques

Here is a short list of points to concentrate on while birding:

1. Come prepared with proper tools.
2. Be QUIET with your voice and your body.
3. Listen and look.
4. Wear a hat, cover your eyes.
5. Remember to look for certain birds in certain habitats.
6. Look for overall size compared to other birds present.
7. Note the birds shape and silhouette.
8. Break down plumage patterns by area,such as black head, brown back, white bill, red bill, leg color, etc.
9. Bird behavior and action at rest.
10. Manner of flight
11. Most birds tell us what they are by the sounds they make
12. Take time to observe and collect data, don't be in a hurry
13. Last but not least, do you have permission to bird in the area?

Data Collection Sheet

[illegible]